

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the Indiana members of the First Special Service Force, recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal.

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**MESSMER**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring the Indiana  
2 members of the First Special Service Force, recipients of the  
3 Congressional Gold Medal.

4           *Whereas, The First Special Service Force of the United*  
5 *States was officially formed on July 20, 1942, at Fort Harrison*  
6 *as a joint World War II American-Canadian commando unit;*

7           *Whereas, Prior to deployment, force members received*  
8 *vigorous training in stealth tactics, hand-to-hand combat,*  
9 *demolition methods, parachuting, and rock-climbing;*

10          *Whereas, The First Special Service Force embarked on*  
11 *several missions, including strategic operations in Italy, Anzio,*  
12 *and France from 1943 through 1944, each of which were*  
13 *successful until the unit's disbandment in December 1944;*

14          *Whereas, Due to the group's unique training, the members*  
15 *of the First Special Service Force were able to take*  
16 *impenetrable objectives, such as defense strongholds in the*  
17 *Italian mountains, Monte la Difensa and Monte la Remetanea,*  
18 *which had only been subject to futile attempts previously;*

19          *Whereas, In Anzio, the force earned its popular name, the*  
20 *"Devil's Brigade," for fighting for 99 days without relief and*  
21 *overtaking strategic land, including the Mussolini Canal sector,*  
22 *through covert night operations during which the brigade*



1 *members would smear their faces with black boot polish;*

2 *Whereas, The Devil's Brigade was also integral in*  
 3 *capturing Rome, securing seven bridges and being among the*  
 4 *first Allied units to enter the city;*

5 *Whereas, Among the 1,800 brigade volunteers overall,*  
 6 *approximately 92 members were from Indiana;*

7 *Whereas, On February 3, 2015, the entire unit was*  
 8 *awarded with a Congressional Gold Medal in Washington,*  
 9 *D.C., the United States' highest award for distinguished*  
 10 *achievement; and*

11 *Whereas, Such service and bravery deserves to be honored*  
 12 *and recognized: Therefore,*

13 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*  
 14 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

15 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly honors the  
 16 Indiana members of the First Special Service Force for their valor in a  
 17 significant part of World War II's history.

18 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to  
 19 transmit copies of this Resolution to the surviving Indiana members of  
 20 the First Special Service Force, Marion Adams, Robert George, Russell  
 21 Gordon, Joseph Sharp, and Dominic Trimboli, and the families of the  
 22 fallen Indiana members of the unit.

